

**CABARRUS COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN  
ANNEX F  
FIRE PROTECTION**

**Primary Agencies**

- Fire Marshal
- Volunteer Fire Departments

**Support Agencies**

- Municipal Fire Departments
- Public Information Officer (Communications and Outreach)
- Sheriff's Department
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Emergency Management

**I. PURPOSE**

This annex describes the coordination of fire protection activities during emergency situations.

**II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS**

**A. Situation**

1. Fire prevention and fire-fighting present hazards to both fire service personnel and citizens.
2. These hazards become more significant during emergency situations, especially during civil disturbances and hazardous materials accidents.

**B. Assumptions**

1. Fire service personnel and equipment are able to cope with most emergency situations through the use of existing mutual aid agreements.
2. When additional support is required, the Fire Marshal requests assistance from state and federal agencies.

**III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

- A. During emergency situations, fire departments use normal equipment, manpower, and procedures to respond to incidents. Should these units need additional support or special equipment, they request these items through their chain of command.

- B. B. In a response to an emergency situation that involves different emergency services (e.g., fire, rescue, law enforcement, etc.), the Incident Commander coordinates all units, regardless of service.
- C. If a fire or threat of fire exists during an emergency, the Fire Chief or a designee of the district affected becomes the Incident Commander. The Incident Commander coordinates all activities on-site and remains in contact with the Cabarrus County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The initial Incident Commander is the ranking fire officer from the affected area.
- D. The local fire services and the Forest Service establish a unified command when a wildland fire threatens structures.
- E. If no fire or threat of fire exists, the Chiefs of emergency services on the scene determine incident command. Normally, the agency with the most involvement in the emergency response operation assumes command at the site.
- F. Under the provisions of the North Carolina Hazardous Material Right-to-Know Law, local Fire Chiefs survey facilities within their jurisdictions to identify types and volumes of hazardous materials located there. The Fire Marshal maintains this data for all the facilities within the County. Fire service leaders use this information to develop response plans for hazardous materials accidents within the district.
- G. The Fire Marshal coordinates the local facility emergency response plans with the County Emergency Operations Plan and provides this information to the appropriate fire departments.
- H. The Cabarrus County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) has the responsibility for the development of the County response plan for a hazardous material release. The LEPC also reviews site-specific plans for industries that pose a significant hazard to the community because of the extremely hazardous materials (EHS) on site.
- I. When responding to a situation involving hazardous materials, the fire departments take all necessary precautions to protect fire service personnel and the other emergency workers involved at the site. The units responding observe department standard operating procedures and react based on their level of training for that type of event.
- J. The facility using the hazardous material or the company transporting such material provides the initial alert that a release of hazardous material has occurred. The facility or company involved notifies the 911 communications center and gives the type and quantity of the material released, if known. As the emergency response develops, emergency services personnel on the scene determine the amount and extent of the release and confirm identification of the material released.

#### **IV. DIRECTION AND CONTROL**

- A. Direction and control of local fire departments is supervised by the Fire Marshal, based on guidance provided from the executive branch of the local government.
- B. Each volunteer fire department in the County exercises control over its personnel through officers appointed by a board of directors.
- C. The Fire Marshal coordinates fire services in an emergency situation. The Fire Marshal utilizes mutual aid agreements with local units and then request assistance from the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (NCDEM) through the State Emergency Response Team (SERT).
- D. The County Fire Marshal is part of the Operations Group in the County EOC. The Fire Marshal normally coordinates fire-fighting operations from the incident command post during small-scale emergencies. During larger scale and/or countywide emergencies the Fire Marshal coordinates operations from the County EOC.
- E. During emergency response operations within Cabarrus County, municipal and volunteer fire departments are responsible for the following tasks:
  - 1. Assist in warning and notifying the affected population of an existing or impending emergency.
  - 2. Deploy fire-fighting personnel and equipment to conduct fire-fighting and other life-saving operations during emergency situations.
  - 3. In conjunction with the County Fire Marshal, designate staging areas for mutual aid and volunteer forces responding from other areas.
  - 4. Provide rescue and medical support operations to the community during emergency operations.
  - 5. Provide personnel and equipment to support public warning and traffic control missions.
  - 6. Support the evacuation of extended care facilities and those with functional needs, as the situation permits.
  - 7. Prevent fires or further damage from fires within evacuated areas.
  - 8. Assist in debris clearance for emergency access to damaged areas.
  - 9. Assist land search and rescue operations. Along with other emergency services, be prepared to conduct or assist in rescue operations of lost individuals and injured/entrapped victims during emergency operations, to include water, low/high level, trench, and confined space rescues.
  - 10. Be prepared to conduct victim recovery.

## **V. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT**

- A. Staffing assignments for positions in the EOC allow for continuous operations.
- B. Selection and assignment of personnel is the responsibility of the agencies represented.
- C. Once assigned to the EOC, the Emergency Management Coordinator (EOC Manager) supervises these personnel.
- D. In the event that the primary EOC is not functional, the Emergency Management Coordinator activates an alternate EOC and notifies the Board of Commissioners of this change. Transportation is provided to any County Commissioners that cannot reach the EOC locations.
- E. Orders of Succession:
  - 1. Fire Marshal
  - 2. Assistant Fire Marshal
  - 3. Emergency Management Coordinator
- F. Orders of succession for departments and agencies that support fire protection are in accordance with their internal standard operating procedures.